

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of sharing queries in a hub processing unit coupled to a plurality of information processing units over a network, the method on the information processing unit comprising the steps of:

receiving a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) string from a first user;

determining if the URL string [[is]] represents a query, if the URL string [[is]] represents a query, performing the sub-steps of:

storing the query in a query database;

forwarding the query to a hub processing unit in the event that the first user selects [[a]] the query for sharing with a second user connected to the hub processing unit; and

storing information in an accounting database for awarding the first user for submitting the query for sharing; and

receiving, from a second user, a selection for one of the stored queries for sharing ~~in the database.~~

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the sub-step of forwarding further includes the sub-step of receiving from the second user, a selection of a query from a query history list.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method as defined in claim 2 [[1]], wherein the sub-step of forwarding further includes the sub-step of storing information in the accounting database for awarding the first user for submitting the query in response to the second

~~user selecting the query from the query history list receiving from the second user, a selection of a query from the received string that has been shown to be a query.~~

Claim 4 (original): The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the determining step further includes the sub-step of analyzing the string for a particular character or characters to determine if the string is a query.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the sub-step of forwarding further comprises the sub-step of appending additional information from the first user to the shared query.

Claim 6 (original): The method as defined in claim 5, wherein the appending step further includes appending additional information comprising category, title or descriptive information.

Claim 7 (original): The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the storing sub-step further includes storing the query in an information processing unit wherein the storing is temporary or permanent storage.

Claim 8 (original): The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising a step of repetitively processing incoming strings as long as strings are received from the user.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method of sharing queries in a hub processing unit coupled to a plurality of client information processing units over a network, the method on the hub processing unit comprising the steps of:

receiving a query selected for sharing by a first user of a client information processing system;

storing the query;

storing information in an accounting database for awarding the first user for

submitting the query for sharing;

~~capturing search requests for shared queries entered by a second user;~~

~~processing the search requests;~~

~~upon finding an interesting shared query by the second user, receiving from a second user a selection of the query shared by the first user;~~

~~performing the further sub-steps of:~~

~~activating a hyperlink to request a search result set based upon the second user's user selection of the hyperlink; and~~

~~displaying the search result set for [[a]] the second user user's review.~~

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the capturing step further comprises capturing searches made through headlines for documents.

Claim 11 (original): The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the receiving step further includes a sub-step of validating a received query string.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the receiving step further includes ~~further comprising~~ a step of awarding at least one of a reward and points for at least one query submission by a user.

Claim 13 (original): The method as defined in claim 12, wherein the awarding step further comprises notifying an accounting manager of the query submission.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A client information processing unit coupled via a network with a hub processing unit apparatus for sharing queries comprising:

an input for receiving a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) string from a first user;

a comparator for determining if the URL string [[is]] represents a query;

an interface for storing the query in an information processing unit memory;

an output for forwarding the query to a hub processing unit in the event that the first user selects the [[a]] query for sharing with a second user connected to the hub processing unit; and

an accounting database for storing information for awarding the first user for submitting the query for sharing; and

an input for receiving, from a second user, a selection for one of the stored queries for sharing in the database.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The client information processing unit as defined in claim 14, wherein the input further includes a selection device so that the first user selects a query from a query history list.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The client information processing unit as defined in claim 14, wherein the input further includes a selection device so that the first user selects a query from the received string that has been shown to be a query.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The client information processing unit as defined in claim 14, wherein the comparator includes an analyzer which analyzes the string for a particular character or characters to determine if the string is a query.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The client information processing unit as defined in claim 14, wherein the input further includes a graphical user interface that allows the first user to append additional information to the shared query.

Claim 19 (original): The client information processing unit as defined in claim 18, wherein the graphical user interface further includes a pop-up dialog box that requests additional information comprising category, title or descriptive information.

Claim 20 (original): The client information processing unit as defined in claim 14,

wherein the information processing unit memory further includes permanent or temporary memory.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A server for sharing queries in a client-server network comprising:

- an input means for receiving from a client over a network, a query selected by a first user for sharing;

- interface means for storing the query received;

- means for searching through queries by a second user;

- means for finding an interesting shared query by the second user;

- means for activating a hyperlink to request a result set if the shared query is of value to the second user;

- means for awarding the first user for selecting the query for sharing; and

- means for perusing the search result set if the shared query is of value to the second user.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A computer readable medium including programming instructions, the programming instructions including instructions for query sharing in a client server network comprising:

- reception instructions for receiving a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) string from a client first user;

- determination instructions for determining if the URL string [[is]] represents a query;

- storing instructions for storing the query in a client computer if the URL string [[is]] represents a query; and

- forwarding instructions for forwarding the query to a server in the event that the URL string [[is]] represents a query and the first user selects a query for sharing with a second user connected to the hub processing unit; and

- storing information in an accounting database for awarding the first user

for submitting the query for sharing; and
receiving, from a second user, a selection for one of the stored queries for sharing in the database.

Claim 23 (original): The computer readable medium of claim 22, further comprising instructions for selective sharing of URLs.